

Kentucky Environmental Education Council

Fall Meeting October 19, 2005

**Berry Hill
Frankfort, KY**

Minutes of the Meeting

Members Present: Horace Brown, Frances Carter, Wade Helm, Greg Higdon, Kurt Mason, Yvonne Meichtry

Members not present: Robin Chandler, Jeff Hohman, Evelyn Morgan,

Guest: Mark Kopp

Staff: Jane Eller, John LeFevre

Mr. Brown, the council chair, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Mr. Mason moved to approve the minutes from the spring meeting. Mr. Higdon seconded the motion and the spring council minutes were approved. Mr. Higdon moved to approve the summer council meeting minutes. Ms. Carter seconded this motion and the summer council meeting minutes were approved.

Ms. Eller arrived late due to a phone call from Jim Bruggers, a reporter for the Courier Journal. She reported that he was asking about the certification class and the code of ethics. There was a brief discussion about the code of ethics. Ms. Eller said that other states doing certification each have a code. Ours is not required but participants are encouraged to sign it. She also said there is a Task Force that makes the decisions about the program. Mr. Higdon asked who makes up the Task Force. Ms. Eller said that the Task Force is made up of representatives of agencies and organization that do EE in Kentucky as well as the graduates of the first class.

Council members came to agreement that the certification program should indeed have a code of ethics and that the task force should consider making it mandatory.

Upcoming legislative session: Ms. Eller said that our only request for the Governor's budget was to put our salaries in the general fund. We ask for this every legislative session but have never made the "cut". According to Sec. Helm, Governor Patton did not believe in putting items in the general fund that the legislature had created. Nevertheless, for at least two years of his administration he gave us additional one time funding (\$30,000 each time). She said this was our last attempt to get into the general fund through the Governor's budget. If this did not work out, we would have to approach the legislature.

PRIDE Fund – Ms. Eller reminded members that the interest from the Pride fund was considerably more than last year and that each university would get about \$96,000. She also said that, during budget reviews in the fall, Secretary Fox had asked that those funds be used to pilot projects in job embedded professional development for teachers.

She said this had obviously come as a surprise to her and to the KUPEE members. She said since the Council had voted to have Mr. Higdon represent them in working on these budget issues related to the Pride fund, she had contacted him and he had been very, very supportive; accompanying her to see Secretary Fox and to a KUPEE meeting to explain it to the Universities Center Directors. Mr. Higdon explained that it was his hope that we could manage to do both job embedded PD and support our efforts to reach preservice teachers at the same time. Ms. Eller said we could design the

Ms. Eller asked Mark Kopp, attending the meeting for Kentucky Department of Education, to explain what is meant by job embedded PD. Mr. Kopp explained that job embedded PD is simply professional development for teachers that occurs mainly in their place of employment and that is highly relevant to improving their teaching ability.

Ms. Carter discussed the fact that we needed teacher professional development that went beyond teaching just to improve test scores.

Ms. Eller also said that we had requested and received 7% of this year's Pride money for administration and that most of that money would go toward evaluating how the KUPEE schools see the money. We have hired Judith Weckman of Berea College to be the outside evaluator.

Also with Mr. Higdon's encouragement, Secretary Fox agreed that we should develop an RFP to guide the universities as they develop projects. Mr. Higdon asked that the RFP be flexible enough to allow the universities to also include work toward implementing parts of the master plan.

Ms. Eller referred Council members to the draft RFP and said that the universities have agreed to follow its guidelines to develop proposals. She asked Council members to note that including preservice teachers in the projects would help fulfill the requirement of the master plan (or at least begin to do so).

Dr. Meichtry expressed concern that only doing the job embedded PD with inservice teachers hampered our efforts to get EE institutionalized.

New National "requirements" or Certification – The certification program has been a challenge this year with two classes of about 20 each. In addition, there is a national committee (formed by NAAEE) developing guidelines to accredit state certification programs. Ms. Eller is a member of that committee and said that, while Kentucky's program already meets most of the guidelines, we will have to add some component to

get national accreditation. She said she and the other instructors have already been working on that.

Green and Healthy Schools Project –

Ms. Eller said this project has turned out to be much bigger than she originally anticipated both because of the way it will be structured (inventories conducted by students etc.) and because we are planning to include a new schools component as well. The new schools component requires very technical guidelines that will be used by architects, engineer's and builders. We have a committee working on this but it will probably take longer than the other part of the programs. Ms. Eller said we have some carry forward monies from last year and she wants to spend most of that on hiring someone to put the finishing touches on the program and develop the website.

Ms. Eller listed other current Council projects and partnerships including

East KY PRIDE nature center board
Bluegrass PRIDE board
Excel

Mr. Lefevre talked about Project WET activities. The Council is now sponsoring WET along with the Universities and Mr. Lefevre is Project WET Director. He has organized a steering committee and will distribute books through the universities.

Mr. Brown asked if there was other old or new business. There being none, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held in Frankfort on January 24, 2006.